Restriction on import of Ampicillin Sodium sterile

2051. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 678 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th September, 1991 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that imports of Ampicilin Sodium sterile were restricted resulting in black marketing of its price by the producer;

(b) whether it is a fact that the drug is being sold at Rs. 4500 per kg. against the notified price of Rs. 2916 per kg.;

(c) what are the names of the producers of this drug and what was its production during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) what is the estimated demand for 1991-92;

(e) what are the basis on which import restriction was recommended;

(f) whether it is also a fact that the major producer did not provide cost data but despite this import restriction was recommended; and

(g) what was the price of drug before custom duty concession on inputs and what was after concession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) No such instance has come to the notice of the Government.

(c) In the organised sector Ampicillin Sodium is being produced by only one unit viz. M/s. Armour Chemicals. To the extent available their production is as follows:

1989—90 MT	1990—91 MT	April, 91 June, 91 MT
2	19.5	9.5

Apart from this, there are a number of producers in the small scale sector, the production of those units is not monitored".

(d) Estimated demand for 1991-92 is 91 MT.

(e) and (f) Imports of Ampicillin Sodium have been restricted to encourage indigenous production, which is one of the basic objectives of drug policy and to check the outflow of foreign exchange..

(g) Price of Ampicillin Sodium Sterile was fixed on 13-9-90 at Rs 2941 kg. which has subsequently been revised at Rs. 3653 kg w.e.f. 28-11-91.

Higher prices for Betamethasone and its salts

2052. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 671 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th September 1991 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that instead of investigating the conduct of Murthy Committee, Government and BICP have joined hands to give M/s Glindia a price equal to or higher than the price fixed by Murthy Committee for Betamethasone and its salts;

(b) whether it is a fact that his predecessor did not find any justification in giving benefit of cost reduction allegedly on account of R and D to the producers;

(c) what is the magnitude and names of bulk drugs in respect of which such benefit has been recommended by BICP;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government have not laid down any guidelines; and

(e) if so, how the benefit has been recommended in the absence of any guidelines?